

MUNDALE,
*The West Parish of Westfield,
Massachusetts, in the
Olden Days.*

ELOISE FOWLER SALMOND

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MUNDALE,
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Massachusetts, in the
Olden Days.*

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY
ELOISE FOWLER SALMOND



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THE POND-EKBERG COMPANY PRESS
Springfield, Massachusetts

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ELOISE FOWLER SALMOND

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DEDICATED

to the

WESTERN HAMPDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



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FOREWORD

ABOUT the first of May, 1930, in preparing for an auction of the effects of Mrs. Willis H. Gibbs, who had died March sixth, an old tavern sign was found in the attic of her home. Knowing that I was interested in antiques, her mother-in-law, Mrs. Emory H. Gibbs, called me in hopes that I might find out if it had been the sign of the old hotel in this parish. Endeavoring to do so, I learned from a few bits of information given me by Mr. Horace G. Nelson that Mundale had had a very interesting history, much of which would be lost if someone did not obtain and record it before those of the older generation should pass on. It seemed to me to be my duty as well as pleasure to undertake this task. I have endeavored to make it not simply a narration of facts but a story of human interest. As we progress I refer to people living in Westfield, unless otherwise noted, or, in a few instances, to some whom we well remember, in order to make the old characters more real by mentioning their relationship to people of our ken.

I have used some information obtained from "Land Abstracts From Early Records," to be found in the Springfield Registry of Deeds, old deeds recorded in the same registry, *History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts* by Louis H. Everts, *History of Suffield* by Hezekiah Spencer Sheldon, *Westfield and Its Historic Influences* by Rev. John H. Lockwood, D. D., the map of Westfield after 1658, prepared and drawn by Louis M. Dewey, the Record of the West Parish, Westfield, Methodist Episcopal

Church, Records of West Monzebrook School District 1809-'41, and *Historic Hampshire in the Connecticut Valley* by Clifton Johnson.

To all those who have assisted me in securing information for this book I wish to express my sincere appreciation. Mr. Horace G. Nelson, who celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday February 22, 1934, was cheerful and untiring in relating historical facts handed down by his father, George Nelson, and others of that generation, who used to gather in the kitchen of his home when he was a boy and discuss the life, past and present, of their parish. His own long life enabled him to tell much that happened many years ago in his own experience and observation. He also vigorously piloted me over the old highways and byways, threading barbed wire and pushing through all sorts of brush and brambles. Without his assistance it would have been impossible to write this little history. Therefore, to him I am especially grateful.

ELOISE FOWLER SALMOND.

West Parish Filters,
Mundale, Westfield, Massachusetts,
March 21, 1934.

MUNDALE,

*The West Parish of Westfield, Massachusetts,
in the Olden Days.*

IN THE very early days Munn's Brook, as Mundale was then called, was divided into two sections running east and west. South from a line parallel with the present main street of Mundale, and drawn a very short distance south of it, was the so-called Bull District. North of that, all land as far as the old boulevard, now Western Avenue, was called Loomis District.

In order to get acquainted with the territory, the roads of the old parish, its houses, and some of its people, let us take a horse and buggy, if you please, for a suitable and comfortable journey. With the air unpolluted with any incongruous odor of gasoline, let us try to breathe the atmosphere of the olden days.

Having crossed the modern cement bridge which not many years ago replaced the last of the old covered wooden bridges about here, called the Horton Bridge, from Samuel Horton who conducted the paper mill near by, we turn abruptly to the right, passing several houses. The first just ahead on the right was built by Dennis Barnes (father of Mrs. Robert R. Nelson, 15 Green Avenue) who came down from the old West Granville Road leading into the Wildcat Road.

This road was not accepted by the town until after the blowing up of a powder mill which stood in the depression which shows just northwest of where Horton's mill after-

wards was built, as its proximity to that mill was considered too dangerous. Mr. Horace Nelson's father had come on his way home just about as far as we are now when the fatal explosion took place, and never knew whether he saw the bodies of the two men killed or only timbers thrown high into the air.

Mundale in the earliest days of its history was called Munn's Brook, from the name of the brook which we shall shortly see, which itself was named after John Munn, the first man to receive a grant of farm land in this region from the town, February 7, 1670—ten acres in the "Newfound land." This was only the year following the incorporation of Westfield as a town, and the land granted to him then, lying over yonder west of Munn's Brook, together with many more adjacent acres, is still called Munn's Meadow. The "Newfoundland" included Munn's Meadow and the large tract north of it, which many years later became Woronoco Park. John Munn's home lot of six acres was the third from our present Elm Street on the north side of Main Street. He was in the Falls fight in King Philip's War, where he lost horse, saddle, and bridle. In 1683 aid was asked for him of the General Court, stating that "he is under a wasting sickness by reason of a surfeit got at the Falls fight and will decline into an incurable consumption." The following year he died. He was the son of Benjamin Munn, a soldier in the Pequot War, who moved from Hartford to Springfield in 1649, where, no doubt, his son was born in 1652.

In the early part of the eighteenth century Munn's Brook commenced to be called "Hooppole," from the great number of powder-keg factories in the region using many lithe young trees or hoop poles which, being split and

shaved inside, were then bent and fashioned into hoops for the kegs. Both names were used for quite a while. Then it was called "West Parish" for obvious reasons until a post office was established there, when the government requested a name consisting of one word instead of two. Mr. Milton Davis Knowles, father of Dr. Rollin H. Knowles of New York City, had given the name of Mundale to a section just ahead of us, so at a meeting called in the church Mr. George W. Loomis, father of Mrs. John H. Fowler and Mrs. Frank Grant, suggested that the name "Mundale" be made to cover the whole parish. "Why not bring the name right up around to include the whole?" asked Mr. Loomis, and it was done. May 19, 1892, is the date of the appointment of Mr. Horace Nelson as the first postmaster, when John Wanamaker was Postmaster General of the United States. Two years and a half later Mrs. Alpheus Drake became postmistress and the office was moved from Mr. Nelson's to her home, which I shall mention later as the Seldon Jones house. When Emerson Barnes moved into the Thomas Loomis house he became postmaster there. Then the office was moved back to its second home under A. B. Pendleton, followed by Sumner Robbins, until about twenty-five years ago when a post office here was given up entirely.

Well, I've taken you in imagination away up into the main street, but really, you see, we have come but a short distance and here we are by a modern store. We shall slip down this road to two houses situated in the hollow to the west. These houses, one larger than the other and neatly kept, were the old boarding houses for a mill which stood a few paces to the north.

We know that early in the 1830's John Shepard owned

and operated a carding mill here, almost undoubtedly one and the same mill. At that time there was a canal with two dams which conveyed water for power. Later in the thirties the Westfield Paper Mills Company, consisting of Lucas Cowles, Israel M. Parsons, Boardman Noble, Matthew Ives, Norman T. Leonard, George Chandler, John Wilson, Daniel Lee, and Marvin Chapin, bought the property and, no doubt, according to information which has come down to us, were the men who deepened the canal. It seems likely also that the carding mill may have been enlarged, as the value of the real estate was greatly increased and the property was sold for ninety-five hundred dollars May 13, 1840, to Cyrus W. Field of Atlantic Cable fame. The seventh of the following May, Mr. Field, having been unsuccessful, turned the property back to the Westfield Paper Mills Company.

Westfield citizens proudly relate that having borrowed money which went into this failure of men in the vicinity (Westfield, City View, Southwick, where his brother Matthew lived in the house last owned by Mr. Charles Arnold on the east side of the road, just north of the center, which burned a very few years ago) Mr. Field left town, but after achieving a fortune, returned and paid all of his debts with compound interest, I think, in all cases.

The Westfield *News-Letter* was started in February, 1841, and an item appeared in an early issue, stating, "Our paper is furnished from the mill of Cyrus W. Field & Co. of this town."

In 1844 the property again came into the possession of Mr. Field who sold it the following year to Mr. Asa B. Whitman. Mr. Whitman did a very great deal for the Central Baptist Church. He built and occupied the house



RUINSVILLE MILL.

Mr. Lozene Osden's horse and carryall. Bus for transporting workers to and from Westfield.

Mr. Lozene Osden standing.

which later became the Allen Memorial Building, a gift of Mrs. Gustavus Hays to the Baptist Church. In Westfield Mr. Whitman was in the hardware business, but just what he manufactured in his mill — if, indeed, he ran it himself — has been impossible to learn.

In 1856 Asa Whitman sold the mill to his brother, Warren. These men were great-uncles of Mrs. W. I. Barton of 77 Firglade Avenue, Springfield, formerly of 37 Broad Street, Westfield. Warren Whitman manufactured cotton goods, twine, clothes lines, mops, etc., and the mill was known as "The Twine Factory."

In 1865 Mr. Warren Whitman sold his property to Josiah S. Knowles. He, together with his son Milton D., Langdon Kellogg, George Peck, and Jonathan Hastings, all Westfield men, engaged in the manufacture of whips. It was then that Mr. Milton Knowles named this small section "Mundale," and the company was called "The Mundale Whip Company."

Before this time the boarding houses, once run by Cotton Cooley, had ceased to function as such and have since been used as dwelling houses. Mr. Milton Knowles occupied the larger of the two houses, and after him Mr. Frank Osden who, with his brother Lozene, both Westfield men, bought out the Knowles and Kellogg Company in 1881 and ran a whip business here under the name of Osden Brothers.

Nobody seemed ever to succeed in this location and the place soon came to be known as "Ruinsville."

Let us get out and take a look at the old site while we give the horse his head to get a bit of grass. The first story of the mill was of brick and the second story of wood painted white. There you see the great hole where the

enormous wheel used to turn, now filled with water from Munn's Brook and Little River. Here is the old canal which brought the water for power. Looking off toward the west we see a part of Munn's Meadow where the mill owner for many years had the right to remove at random material for repairing the dams. So much damage was done to crops in this way that the Westfield Paper Mills Company were obliged to take a deed for yonder pine knoll for the purpose.

At last, in February, 1891, during the proprietorship of the Osden Brothers, the factory burned. The land and remaining buildings were then sold to Crane Brothers when they wished to raise the dam at their upper mill, formerly the Horton Mill, which we passed just before crossing the cement bridge.

Retracing our steps now to where the horse is rather impatiently waiting, we'll climb into the buggy and, back on the main highway, jog along until on the left we come to a house just before we make the turn into the main parish road. It is the old Clapp house, more recently occupied by William Hatch's family, emigrants from England. Mr. Jebediah Clapp used to truck for the old Ruinsville mill when it was doing its best with cotton, and many are the bales of that commodity that his old one horse drew out from Westfield, to return with finished products. His daughter, Miss Lucy, was a teacher; another, Kate, became the second wife of Norman Higgins of the East Mountain section.

As we cross the bridge over Munn's Brook I miss the turtles from the log today. This iron bridge was built about forty-five years ago to replace two small wooden structures. This road had been here for years but the main

highway led from Loomis Street, opposite the Whittaker Road, across a bridge, over the lowlands to the south of us, coming up into this road at the top of the hill ahead. A year or two after this bridge was built, the one down below was washed away, was not replaced, and since then this has been the only road.

Here on our right I am going to tie the horse to the fence while we crawl between the boards of Mr. Nelson's gate to show you where the old dam was which sent the water from Little River which flowed years ago entirely through the channel of the branch still flowing here, to join with Munn's Brook to flow through the canal to give the power to the mill at Ruinsville. It sounds like "The House That Jack Built," doesn't it? Right here on the right of this footbridge was the old log and stone dam, from which ran an earthen bank southeasterly to that left bank of the old canal yonder. The beautiful pine knoll to the south once formed the right bank diverting the waters into the canal. The gouges in its side show where dirt was obtained to repair the dams.

Let us follow along in the bed of the canal. Here, a little farther on, the combined waters of Little River and Munn's Brook formed a lake extending south as far as the first bridge down Loomis Street. I shall take you no farther because the underbrush and brambles are so dreadful that it is difficult to believe that a road led through them to a point several rods north to a sawmill run by Lucas Cowles, which derived its power from the waters of the two streams dammed at that point. And just above this dam started the canal which carried the power to the Ruinsville mill.

Sit down here beside me a few minutes, for I must tell

you about the deepening of the canal. Micajah Taylor of Westfield contracted for the job. He hired a gang of Irishmen who had been working on the Northampton Canal. They struck red sandstone which was of such a nature that it all had to be picked out instead of blasted. This ate up the contract money long before the work was finished. Mr. Taylor put the situation squarely up to the company who said that the canal must be completed, and that it would be paid for according to the cost.

The story is told that Lydia Nelson Bushnell, then a little girl ten or twelve years old, sister of Mr. Horace Nelson's father, went to spend the night at the home of Mr. Paul Shepard, grandfather of Mr. Fred Shepard of the Bryan Hardware Company. The house was that now occupied by Mr. George W. Winslow, 52 Court Street. She became afflicted with the dreadful malady of homesickness and set out straightway for the only cure. When she reached the southern end of Horton's Bridge, where the camp of the wild Irishmen was located, she became so frightened by their mere presence that she ran all the rest of the mile and a half home.

Before we go back to the buggy, let us cross the footbridge into Munn's Meadow. When cultivated this was hard land to plow. One day when very young, Horace Nelson was engaged in plowing with two yoke of oxen. Stopping to rest and feed his animals, he gathered them under this very shagbark hickory tree, the oxen lined up south of the youth. Along by the water came Mr. Edwin Smith, hunting birds with his fine gun and beautiful pointer. His son, Mr. W. T. Smith, honored President of the Western Hampden Historical Society and donor of the Edwin Smith Historical Museum in memory of his father,

gives us the very reliable information that his father was a crack shot. The dog pointed toward the south; Mr. Smith fired; the bird flew northwest; Mr. Smith wheeled and fired again, crack shot indeed, right into the midst of the oxen. Excitement reigned, but the would-be-stampeding quartet were quickly subdued by the active young farmer.

Back again on the road we pull to the top of Blacksmith Hill, whence we see the sites of old houses which used to stand on the lowlands to the south. There to the left Mr. Samuel Lee was born and lived in a large house, burned since I went to live in Mundale in 1920. He was the great-grandfather of Miss Mary S. Thayer of 1 East Silver Street, Mrs. Etta Snow Turner who recently died in Westfield, and Mrs. Patty Lee Clark of Hartford, Connecticut. Later Nelson Andrus lived there and ran a powder-keg factory on the place.

Farther to the south stood the house of John Shepard, great-grandfather of Mr. A. S. Rising of the Northwest Road in Mundale. Across the road to the west was the home of his son Solomon, later occupied by Mr. Archibald Little, great-grandfather of Mr. David Little, 7 Woronoco Avenue. John Shepard ran a cider brandy distillery, situated southwest of his house on the north bank of Walker Brook, a branch of Munn's Brook. A short distance west were the cider mills belonging to his son.

As we jog along we pass on our right the Mundale Cemetery, the second in the parish, and come to the site of Mr. John Hallbourg's old blacksmith shop on the same side, from which the hill just climbed took its name. Mr. Horace Nelson's father built the shop for Mr. Hallbourg, who came from Alsace-Lorraine. His son Francis now lives at 156 Western Avenue.

On our left we see a very trim little house, occupied by Mr. Bertram Champlin and his mother. It was originally built by Mr. John Shepard for his son Jehiel, and later became the parsonage. You may have heard it called "the Moses Herrick place."

Next on our right is the home of Mrs. Harry Nelson, widow of the son of Mr. Henry Nelson, brother of Horace. The house was originally built by Mr. Lucas Cowles, a brother of Oren, and great-uncle to Mrs. Jennie Cowing, mother of His Honor Mayor Raymond H. Cowing of Westfield.

In the very early days when men came out from Westfield to till their fields, the first well built in Mundale to save going to the spring to the south for fear of Indians, was built here before there was any house, but now the old well is enclosed by the shed.

One day, so the story goes, Mr. Lucas Cowles injured his thumb sawing at his mill. Being a very temperate man he refused the wine which might have done him good. He went out and down to the Walker Brook where a hydraulic ram was being installed, but realizing soon that he was in a very serious condition he came back and told his wife they had better send for Doctor Homer Holland. Doctor Holland had started for Russell so a student doctor returned with the messenger. Recognizing a critical condition he sent Mr. Lucas' son across the Northwest Road to see if perchance he could intercept the doctor. He rode so fast that the neighbors wondered at Lucas Cowles' allowing a son to ride a horse at that speed, but was too late to catch the doctor. When the latter finally did reach the house, Mr. Cowles had already died. The doctor said a good drink of whiskey would have saved him. Many years

later his son Henry sawed his thumb. They made him drink and, however it was, he lived.

On the left we pass the site of Mr. Thomas Cowles' house. He was the maternal grandfather of Mr. Lester Campbell of 74 Franklin Street. "Uncle Thomas," as he was affectionately called, was a saint on earth. Everything in connection with the Church was of chief interest to him. He was the sexton, class leader Saturday nights as long as class meetings were held, and he always presided over the prayer meetings in the absence of the minister. For twenty-five years he was superintendent of the Sunday school and during that time he started several schools in outlying districts which he conducted Sunday afternoons. In 1855-'56 he served on the Board of Selectmen in Westfield.

Next on our right is a pretty, new bungalow in which we are not especially interested because it is new, but just beyond we come to a little house, very evidently recently renovated. It is the old Lysander Searle house. He was a sawyer, carrying his saw into Westfield to ply his trade. His son, Mr. Frank P. Searle, very recently died at 7 Kellogg Street.

Just beyond is an old and narrow lane down which we are about to turn. On the map I see it is marked "New Road" and no wonder because, though old, it is a short strip leading into the old road to Westfield, built to save going through Mr. Thomas Loomis' field after the old road was discontinued. We cannot go on the first part of the old road as it is entirely obliterated, but I shall tell you about it when we get back onto the main highway.

A little way down on the left, just around a slight curve to the right, we come to the old cemetery, the first cemetery in the parish. Just inside you see the stones of Moses

Sackett and of his wife, Tryphena, and his daughter, Tryphosa. This old burying ground is said to have been filled though there are not many stones. Many colored people were buried here, being brought with much wailing down the old road from miles around.

This cemetery had become too small. People had been buried here in families only in a general way. In the old Munn's Brook Church the question of drinking cold water or allowing one's self the warming effects of an occasional glass of something stronger caused, not long after 1840, a dissension in the Church. Mr. Thomas Loomis of the Hot Water Party was in favor of adding more land to this cemetery, but Mr. Lucas Cowles of the Cold Water Party, being opposed, gave the land for the cemetery at the top of Blacksmith Hill, and was the first person to be buried in it. This last cemetery is laid out in family lots and Mrs. Cowing has a deed dated May 3, 1864, granting to her father, Jarvis Cowles, a lot for \$1.50, Mr. Thomas Cowles acting for the West Parish Cemetery Association as its president.

Now continuing down a hill we find ourselves at the site of the old Rogers house on the right, still showing the depression of the old cellar hole. Here was born the mother of Mr. Frank Grant who passed into the Great Beyond March 5, 1932, terminating thirty-three years' service as Treasurer of the Westfield Athenaeum. You will remember that as we passed what has been known for years as the Henry Nelson house I said that it was built by Lucas Cowles. So it was, but he used for its ell part this old Rogers house, drawn there by Micajah Taylor, who was a Second Adventist, or Millerite. He contracted to move the house for a certain sum of money which he wished paid

immediately, as he expected to be gathered to his fathers at the end of three days and he felt that he must spend his money in that time. The third day passed but he was not called to his reward.

Mr. Rogers had moved to West Springfield where he lived in a house a short distance east of Tatham Hill on the south side of the Springfield Road. His daughter, Miss Amelia Rogers, died at our city infirmary in June, 1926, at the age of one hundred and one years.

Next on the left is the site of the old Purchase house. Mr. Jonathan Purchase, of unusual business ability, had come from England. A little farther on I shall show you the place where he had his fulling mill and made woolen cloth into broadcloth.

Here on the right once stood the house of Mother Walker, who had formerly lived down by Walker Brook, which took its name from that family. She bore the appearance of an old witch as she walked along with her enormous stick. A man known as Squire Smith, a justice of the peace, who lived in Sandisfield, hired Mother Walker to watch his grain which he planted in his lot in Munn's Meadow to the northeast of her house. One day George Nelson (father of Mr. Horace), his cousin Aaron, and another boy, Eli Cartter, went to the meadow for hickory nuts. All of a sudden one of the boys cried, "Let's get out. Here comes Mother Walker." Cartter answered, "Damn her! I don't care about old Mother Walker. Let's have a crack." Just then Mother Walker loomed up from behind a bank. George tried to give up the nuts he had gathered, but she said, "No." The others being of a different mind she said must go to jail. On the way back the three boys sat down to have a good feast. George planted a nut and

from it sprang a tree which stands now on Mr. Horace Nelson's land.

Straight on we come to the place where traffic crossed Little River by means of a bridge. There you may see the abutments on which it rested. Across the river the road followed east along the bank, then turned up through what in the nineties became Woronoco Park, and coming out on the road along the edge of the park, entered the old boulevard, and thence into town.

We shall turn west just this side of the river and follow along what used to be a main travelled road. A little way up here on the right once stood the Purchase mill.

Next on the left formerly stood a house where you see this depression. About sixty-seven years ago Horace and Henry Nelson, under their father's supervision, used the stones from this cellar hole together with stones from the cellar hole of the Purchase site and from their father's old cellar, to build the cider mill on what afterwards became Henry Nelson's place, where the family was then living. And, oh, what cider! Some of us well remember.

Having jogged along some little distance we find ourselves at a clearing but so covered with low growth that we shall be obliged to get out here and tie the horse while we go a little way on foot. The old road once crossed this spot but is entirely obliterated. A house once stood here where these apricot lilies are. They so often stand in silent memory of some old home. As we enter this vestige of a roadway you can see just a ghost of a sign of the old road. First let us make our way to the edge of the river. It is very hard to do, because the track is immediately lost in all sorts of growth and, in fact, this land here has been cultivated since the road was used.



THE PIRATES' DEN.

Perhaps your hair may stand on end and the cold shivers race up and down your spine when I tell you that this is the path of the Pirates' Lane and we are about to see the pirates' house. The lane crossed the river about here and continued to the boulevard, coming out just east of Mr. Andrew Delskey's where so many beehives are. The ell of that house off yonder was the old den. The pirates made counterfeit money, using half glass which made the ring sound true, instead of all lead which did not give the correct sound. Their presence and nefarious enterprise becoming known, they betook themselves to a cave on Mt. Tekoa, where their forge and smelter still remain in spite of attempts of the government to destroy them.

Years and years ago Indians from New York State used to file over the mountains, singing as they came, pitch their wigwams near the river, fish for shad in its waters and dry them on some stones up there to the west, called Flat Rock, and then return to their native haunts.

Retracing our way to the spot where we entered the Pirates' Lane, let us follow it where it turns up this hill to a clearing, across which it once ran, then continued a short distance through those woods as you see it now. Soon it turned and wound around a swampy section in a general southwesterly direction, coming out on the Northwest Road. In this opening, on the brow of the hill west of the road, two houses used to stand very close together.

In the house toward the east once lived a poverty-stricken man who had a daughter as beautiful as she was poor. Here, too, the yellow lilies droop in the wind from the south.

There is a true story which says that once upon a time a young man from Westfield used to come courting a girl,

also very lovely, who lived in the house built onto the old pirates' den. This girl saw the young man approaching on horseback and said to her mother, "Now I'll just have a little fun and run outside for a few minutes. Ask him to come in. It won't hurt him to wait a little." The message delivered, the young man said that as it was such a lovely day he would ride down the road just a little way. On he went, crossed the ford, and came to the house where lived the more beautiful of the two damsels. She had seen her neighbor run out and disappear into the woods, and having divined the intentions of the other girl, decided to have a little fun of her own. So, grabbing a pail, she ran out and commenced calling, "Kerchug, kerchug, kerchug," to imaginary pigs, for in reality they were too poor to have even pigs. The young man approached, saw her and stopped, engaged her in conversation, and at last she invited him in. This was the beginning and the end — the beginning of the successful courtship of the ravishing beauty; the end for the one a little too sure of herself.

Now we must return to our horse, and, having backed around, retrace our way to the main Mundale road, where we turn to the west.

The first house on the right is another new bungalow, but opposite is the old Thomas Loomis house which he built and occupied about eighty-seven years ago, still continuing, however, to run the next house west as a tavern. Thomas was the father of Merrick, Merwin, Grove, Juliet, Andalusia, Thomas Benton, Gilbert, and Norman, besides six who died very young. Mrs. Julia Noble Rockwood of 118 Union Street is a daughter of Andalusia and Mr. Howard G. Noble of 98 Court Street is her son.



THE FIRST METHODIST MEETING HOUSE, WESTFIELD.

Next on the right is the Methodist Church and just east of it is where the old road came out. Just down this old road lived Tom Watson who ran a blacksmith shop behind his house. His son and Horace Nelson were boon companions when they were little boys. At that time the Watsons were about to move and Mr. Watson wished his son to give Horace his rocking-horse as a keepsake. The boy strenuously objected to this but was perfectly willing to give up his trundle-bed, which he did.

We must draw up here a minute, for there is so much to tell. It would be impossible to pass the church without thinking of the Mundale chicken pie suppers, which justly became famous for miles around. The church building was moved from a site up beyond here to this location in 1868. Before the pews were installed the ladies got up their first chicken pie supper in October of that year, for the purpose of raising money for furnishing the church with carpets, etc. Three tables were set the length of the church, using horses and boards, and over two hundred were seated, one hundred from the center of the town. Thereafter these suppers were held every year until the last one was served October 25, 1916, the year before the United States entered the World War.

Opposite the church you see the house which was the old hotel up to 1868, and from then on used as a parsonage until sold in November, 1923, to Miss Elizabeth Merrick of West Springfield. Mr. Thomas Loomis, the builder, was for many years its genial host. The ell part, removed by Miss Merrick, had been the home of Thomas' father, Justus, and there the cooking for the hotel was done. It was called "The Farmers' Hotel" and the sign bore a picture of a horse's head. It was in reality a home for travel-

lers during Mr. Loomis' proprietorship. The four-horse stagecoach from Hartford, connecting in Westfield with the coach from Springfield, and bound for Sandisfield and New Boston, always stopped at this tavern. With a crack of the whip and a pull on the lines, about by Lucas Cowles' house, the horses would gallop up and stop with a grand flourish in front of the hotel, where the passengers were greeted by Mr. Loomis in shirt sleeves and vest. So very popular was this host that sometimes travellers bound for points west but farther north than this route took them, would sometimes come this roundabout way in order to bask in the sunshine of his smile and genial hospitality for the ten minutes usually taken here for refreshments. Then, with another crack of the whip and pull on the lines, off they would go again as they had arrived.

Where the church now stands the hotel barn once stood, and it was nothing to have twenty horses sheltered there for the night.

Between the old barn and Watson's house was the well for the barn. Once upon a time some young blades, returning from a too gay lark, turned sharply into the hotel barnyard. As they passed the well, one of them tipped off the vehicle right into the well and was drowned. There you may see the flat stone covering the old well.

In the basement of the east wing of the hotel Mr. Loomis kept a store. His old book of account for 1818 and 1819 is now in the possession of the Westfield Athenaeum, having been bought for ten cents May 10, 1930, at the auction of the effects of Mrs. Willis H. Gibbs, who owned and occupied at the time of her death in March of that year the house which Mr. Thomas Loomis built when he moved from the hotel.



THE FARMERS' HOTEL.

Mr. Loomis was the great-uncle of Mr. Frank Grant who told me that his original Loomis ancestor in this country was a fuller, and according to this account book it would look as if some of the knowledge of the trade had passed from one generation to the next, as the majority of items charged are for dyeing and pressing.

I borrowed the old account book and tucked it under the seat, so I'll read you a few of the most interesting items. Colors mentioned are navy blue, 17¢, 22¢, 25¢, and 30¢ per yard; cinnemon, 17¢; London brown, 33¢; black, 17¢, 25¢, 28¢, and 30¢; gray, 12¢ and 14¢; "butnut", 25¢; snuff or olive snuff, 30¢; red, 17¢, 18¢, and 26¢. Dyeing stockings black, 10¢ pr.; gloves, 8¢; skeins of yarn black, 6¢; vest, 17¢; great coat, 50¢, are other items. Napping and shearing are frequently mentioned. To scouring and "naping" white flannel at 8¢ per yard and to dressing "Red" flannel at 20¢ per yard are other items frequently found. Others which may interest are:

By one days work making a wheel.....	\$.75
Salmon Stiles By one days work fixing my woodhous.....	.75
To the use of my fanning mill to fan up 16 Bushel at one time and some wry.....	.25
Samuel Jones Dr. to the use of my horse and wagon to town you and James.....	.40
To my waggeon to Southwick mill .....	.30
To Carrying you to town and Back .....	.17
By 19¼ lb. of Codfish at 4¢ lb.....	.77
To my Cart town with your wry.....	.17
" Eighty Bundles of Straw Counted by Mr. Jones.....	.10
" upper Leather for a pair of Shoes.....	.50
" going to mill for you finding* horse & waggeon which you Agreed to give me one Days work.....	1.
" Logwood & vitriol .....	.17
" one mug of Rum toddy .....	.17
" Carrying you over Little River to meting.....	.17

*Notice old meaning of "furnishing."

M U N D A L E I N T H E O L D E N D A Y S

To carry a Load of Bords to town .....	.75
" Carrying ashes to town & going to mill for you.....	1.
" Serving a writ on Asa Amasa Allen — Bates & Sternes Dr. ....	.70
" Serving a writ on Seth Harrison.....	.40
" two hundred & Sixteen Shingle Nails .....	.12
" my butter to New Gate.....	.90
" one Large Log to make plank on.....	1.
" the use of my horse & waggeon after potatoes and Leaving the Bridle out Dors in the Rain.....	.50
" one Plow I had of Lyman Parks.....	4.50
" one oak Log 12 feet Long for plank got over in the meadow .....	.75
" the use of my waggon while attending a wedding one Day .....	.50
" Bring your Shad from Springfield (May 29, 1819)....	.50
" my waggon to Springfield ferry after Shad (May 30).	.72
" the use of my wagon to Southwick mill.....	.20
" the use of my waggeon to Longmeadow breaking the whpettry .....	.92
Cr. By bottle half Doz.....	.25
To the use of my waggeon to Suffield after feathers.....	.50

This last item is interesting to me because the street in Suffield nearest the river was called Feather Street, supposedly by most people because so many feather peddlers lived there, but Mr. H. S. Sheldon, historian of Suffield, said that this could not be true because it had its name before the whites lived there and was probably derived from Ferther, because of its remoteness from the main street, then shortened to Fether. But I can't help but think that the presence of the peddlers influenced the final spelling.

After Mr. Loomis' day at the hotel, the store was conducted by his son Grove, and the hotel was run by Norman Loomis, Milo Phelps, one Brown, Vadakin, Post, Meserve, and perhaps others. It gradually deteriorated until it was an evil place. Men came there to raise high jinks.

Horace Nelson and other small boys used to hang around the barroom to see what they could see, elbowing their way among the men, taking care not to be stepped on. One day some of the young bloods came out from Westfield and, lining up before the bar for their drinks, took turns in treating, not forgetting the boys who, when their turns came at the end of the line, chose lozenges and then stick candy. Finally one young sport, whose name I imagine would interest us, lined them up and, counting them all, called for so many whiskeys, including drinks for the boys. But at that the boys took to their heels, proving that they had profited by the moral lectures on the evils of strong drink, which they had received from their mothers.

Jogging on now we come next on the right to the new bungalow of Mr. Ralph Nelson, and then to the home of his father, Mr. Horace Nelson, built by him forty-nine years ago on the site of the old home of his father, George, which had been built by his father, Horace. To the northeast, in the rear, was an old cider mill of the so-called crush type, the power consisting of flat stones turned by cattle.

Next on the same side you see the present schoolhouse, probably the fifth in the parish. For twenty-five years Miss Maria Happilonia Loomis, daughter of Leicester, presided here as schoolmistress, afterward conducting for a short time a private school for older pupils in her home. She was also an elocutionist.

Now on the left we come to the Seldon Jones house. The original consisted of the ell part of the present structure, home of Samuel Jones, notion peddler. His son, Seldon, built the main part, and divided it for use of himself and of his father and a sister. He and his son Emerson, a

bachelor, made whiplashes in the room over the present dining-room.

Across the street formerly stood a house owned and occupied by James Lamberton, grandfather of Mrs. Charles Little of 55 Court Street. He and his good wife used to pick up their things and betake themselves to a small stone house on the side of Drake Mountain off the Honeypot Road or Drake Lane and there make cheeses.

Next on the same side stands the old Leicester Loomis house with the quite new addition of a piazza across the front. I am going to drive into this yard for a few minutes, for here is a building which figured in the history not only of Mundale but of Westfield at large. The ell and sheds of this house formed the old dwelling of John Loomis who met his death in 1789. He had gone to Vermont, probably to hunt wolves for the bounty. While so occupied, a severe snowstorm came up and Mr. Loomis became exhausted and bewildered. Realizing that he was lost he trod the snow down hard at the base of a tree, sprinkled the powder from his powder-horn around the edge of the trodden spot to keep the animals away, lay down against the tree, and there they found him the next Spring within sight of a house.

The gun which Mr. Loomis was carrying at the time of his death was sold by Miss Maria Happilonia Loomis to Mr. Joseph Fowler of Fox District. At one time Mr. Fowler's house was struck by lightning and from the butt of the gun two splinters were shivered. Mr. Fowler was the father of Mrs. Merrill H. Hosmer of 43 Pleasant Street, whose daughter, Mrs. Verne E. Johnson of Pelham, New York, great-great-great-granddaughter of Mr. Loomis, now possesses the gun carefully mended.



THE JOHN LOOMIS HOUSE.

The first Methodist meetings in Westfield were held in the house of the Widow John Loomis in 1794 or '95, there seeming to have been a doubt as to the exact year, when the history of the Church commenced to be recorded. Their daughter Eunice married William Everton, and many years later Harvey, their son, became a class leader in the West Parish Methodist Church. A great-great-granddaughter, Mrs. Clara Bush Davis of 126 Union Street, is the widow of Rev. Dr. C. E. Davis, pastor of the Westfield Methodist Church from 1903 to 1908.

Mr. Leicester Loomis evidently added enough to the east side of the old John Loomis house to enclose a well in the south corner and a sink in the north corner. The main part of the house he erected at first a story and a half high, later building it up to its present height when he became more prosperous. A little over four years ago Mr. Dexter Farnham bought the place. The previous occupants had used the small windows out of the open shed for their hen-houses. They were replaced by the Farnhams with windows from their former home.

Mr. Loomis used to run a big boot and shoe business in a two-story shop which stood west of the house near the corner of this main street and the Northwest Road. His brother-in-law, Mr. Titus Pomeroy, father of Collins and Nathan, was in the business with him. A man came along one day who told him of an enormous tract of pine timber in the West in which a man could make a great deal of money, and he wished he would send someone out to look it over. This was done and the man, being taken around and around a two-hundred-acre plot, came back with a glowing report of the almost unlimited extent of this wonderful timber land. Mr. Loomis, therefore, borrowed



THE FOURTH SCHOOL BUILDING.
Now at corner of Belmont Avenue and Shepard Street.

small book. If Miss Elzene Jones in one house raised her voice in song to the accompaniment of a melodian, Miss Happilonia Loomis in the other, with heavy voice and loud-throated melodian, strove to drown her out — and there was “music in the air.”

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Now let us turn around and, once more in the highway, we shortly come to what has been known as the Northwest Road since the town took it over. But why not return to the old name of Shack Street? The reason for this name is not obvious as the houses on this road seem, for the most part, to have been as substantial as any in the parish. Possibly it derived its name for the same reason as did a certain region in the northwest of Westhampton. The farmers used to drive their hogs into the section to fatten on the “shack” or fallen nuts. There were many nut trees in this part of Hooppole, whether or not the shack was used for the animals.

First on the left was the old school, fourth in the parish, built about 1841. At one time it sheltered ninety scholars. The building now stands in Westfield on the north corner of Belmont Avenue and Shepard Street, having been moved to town about 1865 by Micajah Taylor and made into a house by a man named Velotus Collins. Upstairs in this building a high school was conducted, teaching all the branches of that grade. In front of the building was a huge hickory tree, which caused this spot to be called Hickory Corner. This tree was struck by lightning about thirty years ago and demolished. But in the days of the school, the most daring of the boys used to swing themselves out onto a branch which came down very close to an upper window and, climbing up, strove to see which could carve his initials the highest.

Among the high school teachers were Elbert Noble, brother of Addison, who built the house on the east corner of High and Court Streets; H. H. Burbank, who built the house at 61 King Street where Mr. Fred Fowler lives; Mrs. Sarah Quigley, and Miss Jennie Campbell, aunt to Mr. Lester Campbell of Franklin Street. Miss Campbell married Mr. John Edgar and became the mother of Mr. Bernie Edgar. Another was Miss Francelia Sackett who married John, a son of Martin Sackett. Still others were Amelia and Mary Clark of Russellville.

First on the right stood a two-room house called "the nigger" or "the frog pond house." It was built by Mr. Leicester Loomis for Joel Moore, a colored lash cutter who worked for him. Mr. Moore was a highly-respected man who had lived in Southwick, manufactured whips, and made a few thousand dollars. He had hired a man by the name of Ives to peddle these whips for him about the country. After a short time Ives reported that he had been obliged to trust several people. Soon it became a business of all trusts until he had swindled Mr. Moore of all his savings. Mr. Joel was the father of Lafayette who died a short time ago in the Madagascar section.

Mr. Moore was also a very good violinist. He offered to teach young Horace Nelson at one time and guaranteed to make him as good a player as he himself, but Mr. Nelson, not crediting himself with as much musical talent as I do with historical ability, did not avail himself of this opportunity.

Next on the right stood the house of one Pomeroy, nicknamed "Catechism" by Mr. Thomas Loomis who was inclined to nickname anyone whenever possible.

Next on the same side stood the home of Mr. Titus

Pomeroy, grandfather of Mrs. Benjamin Chadwick of 18 Hancock Street and Mr. Silas Pomeroy of the Bryan Hardware Company, who resides at 34 Washington Street.

Do you see this break in the stone wall on your right with the tree growing up in the center? A road passed through there leading down into the so-called Blake Lot where lived a man over near those woods who became the first meat peddler in Westfield. He used to kill a "critter," cut it up and, putting pieces into a market basket, go into Westfield and sell the meat to Samuel Fowler, Matthew Ives and others of that generation. Later he moved into town and built a house on the lot at the junction of Western Avenue and the Granville Road. He dug a well there thirty feet deep which after a while went dry. Then he sank the brick wall thirty feet more, a very dangerous procedure. The well was provided with an iron wheel and chain.

Through these bars on the left once ran the Pirates' Lane and continued along this road for a short distance.

On our right we approach the house formerly occupied by Lyman Kilbourn. That is, the south part of the barn was the old house, moved there from the site of the present house when the latter was built. You can plainly see the evidence of this end of the barn having been a dwelling.

On the left, just beyond, we see the old cellar hole of the whip factory of Jehiel (called Hial or Hi) Holcomb and Asahel Nelson, son of Aaron, Senior. One night Mr. Nelson had swept up the shop and had gone home when the building burned, having caught supposedly from the fireplace. Mr. Hial Holcomb, uncle to Mrs. Jane Kingsbury of Westfield, then moved into town and built a factory by the old brook on the southwest side of the old

Canal Railroad. He also built and occupied the house at 13 Madison Street, now the home of Dr. Schoonmaker. In this cellar hole you see some of the stones of the old wall, and were we to walk along this lane which comes out to the south of it, you could easily see the raceway and the banks of the old canal.

Just ahead on the right is the old Hial Holcomb house. It has been owned for many years by Mr. Wilbert Loomis and is occupied summers by his daughter, Mrs. Archie Williams, of 5 Allen Avenue, and her family. The old and unused ell part was the original house on the place and still wears the old red paint. If we should peep through the window we could see the great old fireplace. Jehiel Holcomb, father of the younger Jehiel, about whom we have been speaking, lived here and later built the main house now standing. When his son married, he occupied the old ell part until after his father's death. In the basement of the main house he started his whip business, later moving it across the road. It was here that Mr. Wilbert Loomis brought his bride, occupying the upper part of the house while his father lived downstairs. Years ago the Rev. Mr. Macnamara and perhaps others of the ministers occupied the basement.

But we must hasten along. Just before reaching the next house on our right we come to an old roadway which was more of the Pirates' Lane, leading over to the ford across Little River that we saw a while ago. Where this lane turns to the left over yonder the old road bore to the right, and is now barely discernible through the woods until it comes out on the road leading into the clearing where the beautiful damsel used to live. Over beyond the lane which turns to the left there were two more houses



PIRATES' LANE (near the Den).

many, many years ago. And should we follow east along the bank of Little River we should come upon a square, flat piece of sandstone with a round hole in the center. This held a derrick when sandstone was quarried for use in erecting the present bridge over Munn's Brook. This quarry was owned by Mr. John Hallbourg who had great dreams concerning it which never materialized.

You notice that the old Pirates' Lane passes through the land belonging to the next house, the old Moses Sackett house. Moses' son, Martin Sackett, was grandfather of Mr. Francis Hallbourg. Moses was a farmer. Martin ran the cider brandy distillery which used to be out there northeast of the house, a couple of cider mills just beyond, and a large sawmill well to the northeast on the old Mill or Noble Brook which we crossed back up the road a bit. It is easy to find the place of the old dam which held the waters of the brook, forming a pond where the young people used to skate. The canal is very plain and also the flume through which the water rushed to turn the twenty-four-foot wheel. And standing on an old red sandstone foundation stone at the edge of the bank, it is easy to imagine the old mill. Martin also made cigars in his house and was for a time selectman in Westfield.

In speaking of Noble Brook it is interesting to recall the fact that one day Mr. Hial Holcomb was watering his horse in the brook behind the Sackett house when the idea came into his head of using shellac as an outer coating for whips. He acted upon the notion and that was the first use of shellac in the whip industry.

In this little house on the left once lived William Hale, terribly crippled from a fall off the high seat of the stage-coach which he used to drive.

Here on the right at the top of the hill, stood the home of Jarvis Cowles, father of Mrs. Jennie Cowing. The house was built by his father, Martin, and burned in 1906. Jarvis worked for Leicester Loomis in his whiplash factory.

Off to our left used to be a sandstone quarry run by the sons of Oren Cowles, Eber being one. They got out many flat doorsteps used roundabout, the steps at the old Hoop-pole High School being among them. One of the old stones is by the piazza of what is called the old Collins house in Westfield.

Where you see these chicken coops on our left near this brook once stood a real log house, and here in this small house on our right lived Eber Cowles, and next to him, Oren Cowles, great-grandfather of Mr. Wells Greenwood of 27 Hampden Street. Oren Cowles was a stone mason and he and Thomas Cowles built many foundations for houses in Westfield.

Off there to our left is where the Westfield Marble and Sandstone Company first started quarrying the marble discovered about forty-six years ago by Homer Noble of Western Avenue in a lot on the mountain side, owned by Thomas Cowles who, with Oren and Jarvis Cowles, sold their mountain land to the company.

Just below here on the left once stood the home of Daniel Sibley, grandfather of the late Mrs. George W. Loomis. The house burned about seventy-five years ago.

Now I think we'll take advantage of this road here on the left to back around. It used to lead down to a sawmill on the bank of Little River, built and run by Stephen Spelman, and later by his son Edward, father of Mr. Harry A. Spelman of 49 School Street. They lived in a small house in the mill yard. Horace and Henry Nelson bought

the mill and after running it for ten or twelve years, sold it to the Westfield Marble and Sandstone Company, who used it for sawing and finishing their stone.

As we hurry back over Shack Street, can you imagine the people living and laboring along this way so many years ago?

Well, here we are again on the main street. We turn to the right and directly on our left is the site of the third schoolhouse built in 1810, later moved to form the main part of the Lysander Searle house back down the road.

On the corner of this and the Honeypot Road, also called Drake Street, is the old house of Roland Loomis, son of Joshua the second.

Across the street is the house occupied by Titus Pomeroy during the latter part of his life and built with money furnished by Miss Clarissa Noble, great-aunt to Mrs. Rockwood, and a relative of Mr. Pomeroy's wife. She had been living with her brother, James Noble, where the filtration plant is now, and wished to move down where she might be nearer the church, being a very religious woman. It was a business proposition whereby she was to have a home in the west side of the house which became Mr. Pomeroy's at her death.

We turn here to the left into the Honeypot Road.

On this hill at the right once stood the old church which we passed back down the street. It was built in 1829 and was the first Methodist Meeting House built in Westfield. Across its whole front ran a tier of three steps, the top one very wide. Prior to this time the services had been held in the schoolhouse by Roland Loomis'. In those days it was the custom for the people to go to church in the morning, stay for Sunday school, go home for dinner,

return in the afternoon at two or two-thirty for another meeting, and then complete the day with a prayer meeting in the evening. Thursday night there was a prayer meeting. As the people had to be on the road so much between their homes and the church, anyone who has ever lived in Mundale will know that they would get tired of skating up and down this hill in slippery winter travel. And this was one reason for their moving the building in 1868 to its present location.

On our left we come to the site of the old Ward house just this side of which we enter the Bull District of old Munnsbrook. Next stood a house occupied by Fretus Jones, brother of Seldon.

Next on the same side is the home of Mr. Howard Chase, built by Mr. Dwight Drake when he became a benedict. His daughter, Mrs. H. J. Duffy, now resides at 20 Paper Street.

Then on our right we see the old Samuel Drake home. Mr. Drake, who was the grandfather of Mrs. Lillie Liley, late of Westfield, was a Methodist circuit rider and great exhorter, preaching in Eastern Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. About 1836 he returned to the home of his father, Moses, here, and added the present large house to the old one, using the latter for an enclosed shed. He gave his wife her choice of a front door or blinds. She chose the latter. Mr. Drake became a farmer here. The present owner, Mr. Ryland Champlin, keeps his automobile in that building to the south, which has evidences inside of having been a still older house — quite likely the home of Moses, father of Moses.

Mr. Samuel Drake wore a wig, having a red one and one made of curly brown hair, the former of which he

wore more often than the latter. After seating himself in church he generally would move his wig about to be sure that all was well. One Thursday evening Mr. Norman Loomis came to prayer meeting in the vestry, and passing up the aisle accidentally caught the precious possession with his flying ulster and sent it sailing toward the desk. Mirth ran rampant among the youth on the back seats as Mr. Drake, "scooching" below the level of the benches, went in pursuit of his treasured adornment.

Next on our right is the old home of David Drake, Senior. Just south of his home he had a cheese factory. He was a big farmer, raising horses and keeping sheep and bees. Here was the honey-pot which gave the road its name, an enormous bowl-shaped hollow several rods behind his house, where Mr. Drake's numerous beehives were kept. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. George Nesin, have presented to the Western Hampden Historical Society an old wooden cheese basket and a beehive made from a hollow log, which they found in the attic and which, no doubt, had been the property of David Drake.

Next lived Sam Gillett, a brother of Mrs. Leicester Loomis, where now stands the tobacco barn of Mr. Anthony Bogdan, the present owner of this last house on the right, once the home of David Drake, Junior.

Here is an old cellar hole on the left but who lived there we do not know.

And last on the right once lived a Charles Wright, but all signs of a house are gone.

Now we shall back around again and retrace our way to the main road.

Here we are, so let us turn to the left and where you see this rather new bungalow with all these chicken houses

in the yard once stood the home of Mr. Joshua Loomis, grandfather of Miss Jean Loomis of New York and Westfield. Here also was the home of his father, Joshua, great-great-grandson of Joseph Loomis of Windsor, Connecticut, the original member of that family in this country, whose son, Lieutenant Samuel, in 1701 was the first Loomis to receive a grant of land in this district.

As far as we know, the first schoolhouse stood just beyond this place and the second one nearly opposite. There is only the shadow of a doubt about there having been two schoolhouses in those earliest days. The Westfield town records say: "In 1731 the amount of six pounds was allowed for the school over Little River and two pounds for one at Mun's Brook."

Next on our right, where you see this wonderful wood piled in the shed as if by rule and plumb line, and where for many years Mr. Wilbert Loomis has lived, once dwelt Mr. Aaron Nelson who built the house. His son, Mr. Robert R. Nelson, recently died at 15 Green Avenue. Here in the yard, just east of the house, stood Aaron's powder-keg factory, and directly where the barn is now ran this end of Pirates' Lane.

Some lovely day a walk through the woods in back of Mr. Loomis' house would fill you with pleasure, and if you should turn aside to your left and make your way to Mill Brook you would see a very large overhanging rock called Phoebe Rock. Here, they say, once lived an old Indian woman named Phoebe, and at the base of this rock she built her fire; and indeed, Mr. Loomis can remember when it looked black as if discolored by smoke.

Across the road, behind these quince bushes, stood the home of Aaron Nelson, Senior.

In passing, please notice those two large mulberry trees on our left. They, with one offspring over there in the lot, are the sole survivors of some mulberry trees furnished by a company to Aaron Nelson, Senior, in the days when they were trying to start the silkworm industry in this country.

Do you see those large granite rocks here on the right? Before them I am going to draw rein for a bit, for otherwise we shall get the geographical and chronological orders mixed. Many, many years ago Mr. Horace Nelson's ancestor, John Nelson, lived in Rupert, Vermont, inside a stockade, as was so often the case in those days, as you know, for protection from Indians. One day when, upon leaving for work, someone left the gate unlocked, the Indians entered and burned the houses. John Nelson, with five sons, went to Maine, but the sixth son, having fallen in love with a Loomis girl, went whither the lodestone drew him and came to Munn's Brook, married the lady of his heart and built a brush house in front of those rocks. Here bride and groom passed their first Summer, leaving the memory of their honeymoon in purple balm which every Summer since, until quite recently, has spread its banquet of honey for the bees close by the road in front of those rocks. Then across the road here they built their first log house and, after the family outgrew that, a second log house was erected just east, and finally a frame house was built just the other side of the mulberry trees.

Eighteen years or so ago the house burned, which uncovered this cellar hole to our left. The house was owned and occupied long ago by Parmenus Barnes, father of Mr. Newton Barnes and Mrs. John Klar, who died in West-

field a few years back. Between this house and the site of the second log house formerly stood the blacksmith shop run by Parmenus.

Now we shall proceed to a point opposite the private entrance to the West Parish Filtration Plant of the Springfield Water Works, which started operations January 1, 1910. Right here on the left once lived Rufus Herrick, father of John. He also ran a powder-keg factory a little to the east of his house. Being of an ingenious and scientific mind he had his machinery rigged to work with horsepower. He invented a rolling-pin and several other useful articles, but someone always got ahead of him in patenting similar things.

Do you remember the old road which Springfield cut off when it bought the farm of Mr. Emory Gibbs in 1923 for the enlargement of the filter beds? This new road on which we are driving was built for Westfield in exchange for the one taken. The Gibbs house, which faced the old road the other side of those blackberry bushes, was built and occupied by Mr. William Everton, becoming also the home of his son, Harvey, father of Mr. L. O. Everton of the Granville Road. Long before that, a very small house near by was occupied by one Mix, a bear hunter.

Next, just beyond the middle entrance to the water works, we come to a white house, now used as a home for the foreman of the filtration plant. It was built by Mr. James Noble, grandfather of Mr. Howard Noble. Behind the house, in that barn, he ran a cheese factory.

Here let me say that much cheese was manufactured in Hooppole, as it was too far from Westfield center to market the milk there. Milk was furnished by producers in town and many people in those days had their own cows.



THE EAGER NOBLE HOUSE.

Eager Noble, father of James, built and occupied a lovely little red house which stood just where this last new road on the water works, which was constructed in the Summer of 1931, turns to come out to the main road. Across the front of the house were old-fashioned pink roses flanked by lilacs at each corner. Many of the old lilac bushes still stood to give much pleasure until July thirty-first of that year when a steam shovel dished them up as if they were so much dirt and a truck carried them off to a dump. Many years Mr. James Noble used the old house as a powder-keg factory.

Here on our left, opposite the last entrance to the water works, once started the very old road to Granville. It passed along on the mountain side until it crossed the road now owned by Westfield just east of their new reservoir, and came out on the present road opposite the old home of Mr. Timothy Clark, grandfather of Doctor Frederick T. Clark, late of Westfield. Because it was so steep it never proved satisfactory and has not been used for ninety years at least. This road on which we are driving was built to take its place and has itself long been called "the old road to Granville."

Here, where the old road started, once stood the home of William Everton, a carpenter. It was owned by him before he bought the farm which I mentioned just previously. Mr. Everton used the lumber in the old buildings from here in the construction of some down there.

The house at the top of this long hill which commands this sightly view is the old John Gillett place. You may have heard it spoken of as the Frank Hallbourg place. Frank was a brother of John Hallbourg and father of Lawyer Henry Hallbourg of Westfield. John Gillett was

uncle of Mr. Wilbert Loomis. Across the road, what is now the center of the barn was his old cider mill, connected always with the western end of the barn, where he kept part of his stock. The hopper of the mill was upstairs, the press in the cellar. There he made cider, sometimes boiling it and sometimes making cider apple sauce, all of which he sold. The Bancroft sweets made the best cider.

We'll hitch our horse in this yard, for about the only way that we can see the old road now is to climb the hill in back of the house until we reach it. Would that we might have the luck to see, as I did when here before, a very large deer running along the old road and turning down the mountain side, leaping a fence with consummate grace, disappearing below, to reappear once more in an opening and then to pass from sight.

This depression here at the head of the field, where you can detect the outline of the walls and still see a few of the foundation stones, is the site of the powder-keg factory of Mr. Roderick Pomeroy, sometimes called "Rod" but generally "Boss Pomeroy." As you see, it was quite a large shop, employing twenty hands at a time.

Come with me through these bars and here we are in the old road. Down that way east once stood the home of Stephen Seymour which was used at one time as an inn. Mr. John Gillett bought the Seymour farm, on which Connecticut held a mortgage, and the Strickland farm farther west, drawing with cattle the timbers of the buildings for use in erecting his barns and possibly a part of the Gillett house where we left the horse. This mountain used to be called Seymour Mountain.

Let us walk west a little stretch, and now for some barbed wire. Safely under! And behold, the old cellar



MR. HORACE G. NELSON, standing on the site of
"Boss" Pomeroy's Powder-keg Factory.

walls of Boss Pomeroy's house with the foundation of the chimney still standing in the center! The low, rambling house stood with its feet in Granville but its head and heart in Hooppole. Mr. Pomeroy built it when he married Sally Seymour, daughter of Stephen. His granddaughter, Mrs. John Doherty of 16 Madison Street, tells me that it faced this old road, a row of rosebushes across the front with a maple tree at each end. Even when she lived here as a very little girl they either came up through the field as we did, or by an old lane leading from the Gillett house.

There you see where the old bulkhead was, and the kitchen commanded that glorious view toward Westfield, although the foundation wall which you see now on that corner was a later addition. To the north the beautiful mountains! Speaking of the kitchen, and passing from the sublime to the ridiculous — one Sunday Boss Pomeroy and his wife went to church, leaving some of the men who worked in the shop and who boarded with them, to get their own dinner. Flapjacks were to be the *pièce de résistance*. The men got to vying with each other to see which could toss them the highest in turning them over, with the result that when Mr. and Mrs. Pomeroy returned they found the ceiling decorated with flapjacks. The old house burned about twenty years ago.

Before we go on, let us just step down to the well where even a part of the old wooden curbing remains. This used to be a very marshy place and peppermint flourished and emitted its sweet perfume to those who crushed it as they came to draw water.

Sometime when huckleberries are ripe we'll come again and, crossing the road, go up on that side hill to see if we

can find any trace of the old cellar hole of a house occupied by a Deacon Bancroft. The cellar hole was all that remained more than seventy years ago.

To save getting under barbed wire again and over a combination of brush and barbed wire, to say nothing of having to part the bushes in our path, let us follow this lane into the old road. We must pass some little distance westward when we come to the old home site of Jonathan Strickland — in Granville to be sure, but so closely associated with the history of Hooppole and so enchanting in its atmosphere that we ought not to turn back without seeing it. Here again lilac bushes are staunch and true, guarding the old cellar hole which is all the sign that remains of what sheltered human life. It is said that the house was moved by John Gillett to just east of his cider mill, to be used as a barn for his young stock, and has since been joined to the old mill, forming a part of the barn now standing. Across the road is a large rectangular stone wall opening to the southwest, apparently having been a barnyard.

The sun has already passed from sight behind the woods, so we shall turn our backs upon the western glow. We find our faithful horse impatiently pulling on his line. Home ahead and anticipation of his fragrant hay lead him back much faster than he came.

SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS

THE following reports are copied from "Records of West Monzebrook School District 1809-'41," an old school record book purchased for the Westfield Athenaeum at the auction of Mr. Willis H. Gibbs of Mundale, held May 10, 1930, at his house, which was built by Mr. Thomas Loomis and occupied by him after he left the tavern. Mr. Loomis served as clerk at a majority of the meetings, which accounts for the book being found where he used to live.

"1809 Westfield November 17.

This ma certify that this is the Clarks

Book of West monzebrook District

To record all votes past at any meting.

Meating being Leagal warned to atend Meating to build a scoulhouse at Joshua Loomis house or ner said house the freholders and all voters In said district November 17 meat and voted William Cartter J^u Clarke of Said meat-ing William Eviton modderrater put and voted To build ascoulhose seventeen feat one way On the ground and twenty one the Other way and Eight and half feat betwen joints and to Be done in a workman like manner put And voted to have three Committe Moses Sacket one John Sheppard the Second and moses Drake the third To build the house above mentionned. Like wise voted that Said Committy Shall give each man an equil Chance to pay thare tax for Said House perportionately as thare tax

Shall be in Lomber or nesisary artickel. Then voted to have the Said house done By the first of Next Septimber C^ompleat in a workemanlike manner Then voted to raise one hundred & Sixty Doller to build Said house voted To dismifs the meating

1810 January 16 day Scol meating Being opned at John Loomis house Put and voted to give william Cartter three and Sixpence for this Book to Sarve For the deStrick voted that Eager Noble is vondue marStir LikewiSe modderrater of Said meating put and voted that the timber for Said Scol houSe Shal be bid of at the least bider. Then put and voted that the Schoulhouse Shod Be put on the place that the Committee Apointed the West Side of the rode from Joshua Loomis house towards Eager Nobles On the Corner of the turnuppen* then Voted to giv Joshua Loomis fore dollers for the place suitable for the house to Stand on and a Spot to put wood which Was to his Satisfaction Voted to dismifs the meating†.

1810 December 6th Scolmeting opned and held at Justis Loomis house voted Joshua Loomis modderrater Wm Cartter J Clark of Sd meating. Put and voted wm. Evi-ton and Justis Loomis and Wm Cartter J three Committee of SD meting Scoll Committee. put and voted for three month Scooling and voted to Begin the first of January. Next the vote above mentioned for three month Scoling is reconsidered. Put and voted for tow month Scoling in 1811 to begin first of January Next put and voted to give Eight Dollers pr month for the marster put and voted that Evry one Shal pay in wod And Bord that

*"turnpike," spelled as it sounded to the clerk.

†The school eventually was not put here but just east of the Roland Loomis house.

Scend Cording To the number of Scollers that Each one
Scend voted and DistSmifs the meting

March 15th 1811 Scolemeting held at Joshua Loomis
house put and voted Joshua Loomis J^u moderrater put
and voted to have tow month Scoling put and voted to
have tow Commitee William Eviton and John Loomis to
Sarve put and voted that Each man that Scends Shal bord
acording to the Scollers they Scend put and voted the Scole
Shal be seat up the first of Next may.

Moses Sacket 2^d June 11, 1810*

two days & half to frame—————	12	6
one day to shingle—————	5	0
my horse to go in a waggon in town after shingles		
Cattle and horse to Granville October 17 Cart		
two load of Clay four load of stone ————	3	0
Cart six load of stone —————	06	0
one day to tend mnason		
two thirds of a day		
one mantle stone—————		
forty nine feet of boards	03	0
half a bushel of lime		
peck of lime		
to half a day to work		
one pound of white lead—————	1	4
half a point of brandy		
half a day with my team		
one girt		
to hooks and staples—————	02	6
to twelve hoald fast—————	6	0

1811 March 5th Scolmeting
Held at the Scole house being Legal warned West monze
Brook destreek voted Eager Noble Moderater put and

*Should read 1811.

voted Not to raise any More money in addition to the former Sum put and voted to DisSmis the Meating

May 6, 1812 then held a School meating at the school-house and Choose Eagar Noble Modartor and Moses Sacket s Clerk then voted that the last Commite should sarve to get a marm then voted to set up the school three months voted to board acording to the number of scollars as they send

then voted to dis^smith the meating

November 17 1812

then agreed to git a half a cord of wood to each schoollar they send delivered at the school hous the first day of December next then agreed that Moses Drake and master Coles should meshure the wood that each man brings on that Day

Dec: 1th: 1813

then agreed to hire mistres to teach the the school this winter. then Chose three for a Committy Stephen Prat & Samuel Jones & Lyman Noble to hire a mistres if they Can hire one that will answer if not to hire a master then agreed if the Commity hire a mistres to have fore months School and if master three month. then agreed to git half cord of wood to each schollar they send excepttting those which are to chop all the wood that is brought to the scholl this winter these three are Stphen Pratt & Lyman Noble & titus Jones.

May 11th 1814

then agreed to set up a school longanough to expend what money there is now back

November 24^d 1814

put voted that Each one Shall feach one third of a cord of wood for one Scoller Put and voted that Each one Shall

feach his part of wood the third day of December Next or pay his money nine Shilling per cord good Sound wood put voted that the commite Shall Examin And mesuer the Same put and voted that Titus Jonese And Steven prat Shall Cut the wood for thare part at the Scolehouse voted to Dismis the meating

1815 School Meeting held at this Place Nov 23-1815

Voted that there Shall be a School four months this winter & Spring

Voted that Benjⁿ Blakesley or the teacher Shall measure all the wood that is brot to the School

Voted that L Noble & T Jones & B Blakesley Shall Cut all the wood for the School for their part instead of furnishing the wood

Voted that this meating be Dismis^d

School Meating held at this place Joshua Loomis ju Nov. 15th 1816

Voted that Each Person shall bring one quarter of a cord of wood to each collar.

Voted that Each Person shall bring his wood the first monday in Dec and cut it

Voted that Each Person shall bring his wood in the month of December those Person that dont bring his wood in the month of Dec. the committe shall furnish the wood and collect the money from those that are deficient the wood that the committe do furnish shall be 10^s 6^d a cord to be collected from those men that are deficient.

Nov th19 1817

Voted that No Schollars Shall Come to School out of the DeStrict

february 25th 1818

then voted that the schoolhouse Shall be open and free for

M U N D A L E I N T H E O L D E N D A Y S

any Meeting at any time for publick worship not intruding on schools

voted that the school wood shall be free for any religious meetin

Dece 22^d 1818

Voted that each man shall bring one quater of a cord of good oak wood to each schollar that he sends and be measured by the instructor

Voted that each man shall cut his wood and pile it

Voted that anyone that is diffishent in getting wood shall pay the committy after the rate of two dollars a cord

Jan 10th 1821

then voted that the Destricks Should turn out the 13th of this present month to Bank the School house at one oclock pm

Then voted Moses Sackett Jun John Shepard & Eager Noble to Serve a Committee to See that the School house is Banked

then voted that the Committe Should Be empowerd to Collect the money of those who Should Be Defiesent of Doeing there proportion of work

Jan 18th 1821

Then voted that the key Shoud Be Left at Joshua Loomis Jun at Such times as the instructor Should Be Absent

Nov 27th 1821

Voted that two thirds of the money that we draw in this District Should Be expend in the winter Shool

Nov 19th 1822

Voted that a pair of Districk hand irons Should Be Sold at the hiest Bidder Bid off By Martin Cowles .44

Voted that there Should Be one Dollor and eighty three

M U N D A L E I N T H E O L D E N D A Y S

Cents to Be taken from the Districk School money to Be Paid for hand irons and tongs

Nov 14 1823

voted that school be sot up the 24 of the present Month

voted that Samuel Lee put in what glaifs there wants and have his pay out of the school Money

Nov 22^d 1824

Then Held A School Meeting at the Schoollhous in ~~Heppels Schoole house~~ Munsbrook District.

November 10th 1826

then voted that each man Shall find* one quarter of a Cord of good oak wood for each Schollar he Sends to be Cut for the fire

Voted that Gamaliel Cowle Shall See to measing the wood and fix the School house for ninety five Cents

April 16th 1827

voted to have five months Schooling this Sumer.

voted that the three Commitee and the treasury Shall look up the Back mony and Deliver it to the treasury and put it out to interist

Nov. 19th 1827

voted that we have four months and a half Shool this winter if the Committee See fit

voted that if the Committe Cant get a good teacher Short of twelve Dollars to give that

April 8 1828

then voted to have Six Months School this Season

Oct 28th 1828

Voted that the wood for the winter School Shall Be Set up at the Lowest Bider

* "furnish"

M U N D A L E I N T H E O L D E N D A Y S

Voted that Gamalell Coowles Aaron Nelson & Samuel Jones Shall Contrak for the above mntion wood

November 16th 1829

voted Moses Saket A Commtee to See Martin Cowles and git the Back mony if he has any and retun it to the Com-mitee

Aggreed to give Gamaliel Cowles fiftiy Cints for fixing the Schoolhouse

John Shpherd Bid of the wood for the School this winter four months and a half Cut fit for fire for \$8.40^{cs}.

Nov 2 1832

Voted to have the Stove fixed with Brick and set up to the lowist Bider laid in lime Morter

Lucus Cowles bid off the fixing the Stove for 98^{ct}.

Voted to hire a School teacher and Board around for 14 doll. month

April 16th 1834

voted that we Chose three Commite to See how much Back money they Can find and Report next Meeting

Nov. 17th 1834

voted to Set up the repairing of the School house at the Lowest Bider

Set it up and Joshua Loomis Bid it off at forty two Cents.

November 24th 1836

voted that we have a female teacher five weeks and a male teacher three Months this winter

voted Lucas Cowls vendue Master.

Dec 3, 1838*

Martin Sacket was chosen prudential committee

He is at liberty to give Laura Sacket ten dollars per

*Part of a later report finished here on a blank page.

month with the understanding she is to keep yearly months

August 31, 1838. At a school meeting held in Mons Brook west school district

Voted that all future metings be warned by the Cleark by putting notification on the school house meting house and Thomas Loomis Tavern.

Voted we build a new school house larg a nough for two schools one school is to be similar to the high school in the center of the Town.

Voted a committee of five to procure a cite for the house. L. Cowles. T. Loomis D. Drake. O. Cowles. Martain Sacket.

Sept 14 1838

Voted a committee to asertain whether it is necessary to have the selectmen* out or not

Sept 18.-1838 Then choose a committee of three Sam^l Drake, Martain Sacket, David Drake, to ascertain further particulars in relation to a cite.

Voted we adjourn till next friday to ascertain whether the district will buy this land of R. Loomis

Sept 21,-38. Then choose a committee of three T Loomis, Lucus Cowles Leicester Loomis to see whether we can buy this land of R Loomis

Sept 24-38. The committee reported their is no doubt but we can obtain a legal title to the land.

Voted we do agree to Locate the new school house on the ground of the old one or neer it.

Voted a committee of three to petition the Town* for money to build the school house agreeable to a formal vote of the Town*.

* Westfield.

M U N D A L E I N T H E O L D E N D A Y S

Nov 19. Voted we do agree to unite with the Sackets district in building a schoole House agreeable to a formal vote of the Town*.

Feb. 21-38†. Voted a committee of three to petition the Town* for money to put an adition on our school house

March 25 1839. Voted a committee of three to visit the school one a month. Sam^l Drake, Lucus Cowles and Thomas Loomis.

Sept. 9th 1839.

Voted a committee of three to examine the old school house and report at a future meting what is necefsary to be done to the house this fall.

Oct 28 1839.

Voted Martain Sacket Lucus Cowles and Samuel Drake a committee to examine the old school house and asertain the probable expence to put a story on the top of the old house and to put an addition on the end of the same, also the expence to to build new

Nov. 4, 1839

Voted we accept the report of the committee. the committee report it is best to build a new school house.

Voted a building committee of three James Noble Martain Sacket Orrin Cowles

Voted the above committee shall not exced three hundred dollars in building the school house

Voted the above committee are authorized to sell the old school house to the best advantage they can.

Nov 18-1839

Voted we locate the new school house on the land of

*Westfield.

†Should read 1839.

M U N D A L E I N T H E O L D E N D A Y S

Roland Loomis between the little hill and the apple tree opposite of Joshua Loomis.

Voted we give Mr Roland Loomis one dollar a year for the use of as much land as we want with the privelidge of moving the house of when weish.

Voted we build the school house thirty two feet long and seventeen feet wide with ten feet posts.

Voted we adjourn this meting until next Monday eve at six oclock 25th for the purpose of selling the old school house and biding off the building the new one &c

Nov 25, 1839

Voted we set up the frame of the new school house at the lowest bidder.

Lucus Cowles bid of the building the frame for forty seven dollars, and is to do it to the acceptance of the building committee.

Dec 2, 1839

Voted we reconcider the vote of locateing the school house on land of Roland Loomis

Voted we give Mr Thomas Loomis thirty dollars for thirty six feet of land in frunt and twenty two feet in the rear on the corner of his lot joining Joshua Loomis*

Voted we add two more building committee to the others
Lucus Cowles David Drake

Voted we set up the finishing the school house, seats and all together.

Jan 6 1839†

Voted we put a story on the top of the old school house.

*Where school was eventually located.

†Should read 1840.

M U N D A L E I N T H E O L D E N D A Y S

Voted a committee of three to ascertain further respecting land. D. Drake L Cowles J Shephard

January the 20-1840

Voted that wee reconsider all former votes whare wee Agreed to Bild or repare a school hous or houses

April 27th. 1840

Voted the Cleark Shall warn all future meetings By putting up Notices on the School House and Meeting House and Thomas Loomis House to give Seven Days notice at Least

Voted to Build a new School House upon the Land of Lucas Cowles and Raise Such Sums of mony as will Defray the Expenche of the Same Both Land and House

Voted to Lengthen or widen 3 feet if the Building Committee think proper from the former plan 17 by 32

Voted Thomas Loomis Joshua Loomis & Lucas Cowles Building Committee

June th 6 1840

Voted to pay Rowland Loomis Ten Dollars for use of School house Land

Voted to Reconsider th vote whear By they Voted to have a Site on Lucas Cowles Land

Voted to Locate the new School house on Land of Leister Loomis near the corner the price of Land \$23:

Voted the Building Committee get the prople expense of one or two story house and Report at an ajornd meeting

Voted Thos Loomis Lucas Cowles and James Noble make offer to R Loomis of Ten Dollars and pay the Same if accepted By order of the District.

June 13th 1840

Voted that th Building Committe have the which to athority to Decide to Build one or two storry house

M U N D A L E I N T H E O L D E N D A Y S

Voted the Building Committe took a Deed for the District of the Land

June the 22 1840

Voted to Reconsider the vote whereby the District Left it with Building Committe to Decide which to Build one or two Story Huse

Voted to Enlarge 3 feet in Length or Bridydth or Both ways if the Building Committee think expeidient

Voted Martin Sacket & Jehial Shepard to fill the vacan-ces of Lucus Cowles & Joshua Loomis Building Committe in hope of their Decision

Nov the 2nd 1840

Voted to have four weeks female School

Voted the Remainder of the money Be expended for a winter School By a male Teacher

Voted Thomas Loomis Be instructed to pay Rowland Loomis Ten Dollors on a Cost of writt and service

April 2th 1841

Voted to Raise ten Dollors and pay the Cost and Interest on a writ in Favor of Rowland Loomis for School House ground and Interest from November the 2nd 1840 up to this dat

Voted to have Six Committe to Borrow money to Settle the above Demand with Rowland Loomis

Voted this Meetting Stand ajournd one wek from this Evening the 2nd Day of Apriel

The last record in the book reads:

Westfield Apriel 9th 1841 then held a Meetting at the School House acording to the ajournment

Voted this Meetting Desolved

THOMAS LOOMIS, *Clerk*

M U N D A L E I N T H E O L D E N D A Y S

A record in the back of the book, undated and in pencil, contains a vote that Thomas Loomis be auctioneer, the only instance of the modern term "auctioneer" instead of vendue master.

CHURCH

CHURCH

THE following history of the Church in Mundale is given chiefly in the words in which it appears in the book containing the Church Record kept in Mundale, with a few interpolations. The history supplied by Mr. Thomas Cowles is given in the very words of the record as one would not wish to mar its beauty and charm, bearing witness, as it does, to a simple and wonderful faith in the Heavenly Father.

RECORD

Of The

West Parish, Westfield,
Methodist Episcopal Church,

New E. Conference. Springfield District, Mass.

This Book was given to the West Parish Church, by
Mr. James Noble. 1870.

RECORD

*Of The West Parish, Westfield,
Methodist Episcopal Church,*

Transcribed from the Old Book.

History of This Church.

In the year 1794 or '95 the preachers who then travelled Granville Circuit commenced preaching once in two weeks at the house of the Widow John Loomis.

The first collection taken up for the support of preaching was for the quarter ending February, 1795, amounting to 50 cents. Until the summer of 1800 the place was part of the time a week-day appointment upon the circuit. In that year also "Hooppole" with all the rest of the Granville Circuit, including Beech Hill in Granville, where the first church edifice in this region was erected, was transferred to the New York Conference.

In the summer of 1795, Amasa Stocking, a zealous exhorter, moved into the neighborhood and commenced preaching at the Widow Loomis' on the Sabbath. His labors were blessed, some were awakened, and the congregations became so large that the meeting was removed to Moses Sackett's barn. A glorious revival of religion took place. As the work was attended with some noise, and as a revival was a strange thing, the Congregational Society in Westfield held a meeting to see what measures to take to put things to rights in "Hoopholl," and sent the Rev. Mr. Atwater, their minister, out to see and make report. He attended one of their meetings and returned with the report that there was no danger of "Hoophole" for *God was there.*

The first class was formed by Billy Hibbard in the autumn of 1800. Auger* Noble and wife, Moses Sackett and wife, and Joshua Loomis were among the first members. About this time Amasa Stocking received a local preacher's license and at the aforesaid barn, in private houses, and at the schoolhouse for a number of years supplied them with preaching upon the Sabbath, while the place was a regular week-day appointment, visited once in two weeks by the travelling preachers.

In 1807 another revival took place, but as there are none of the fruits of it remaining here, I can gather but little concerning it, only that there were a number converted and that it was distinguished for what is sometimes called the slaying power. At times twenty would lie like men slain in battle.

About 1821 or '22 to '24 the Stillwillites came into the neighborhood and for a season were very popular, but the fathers of the little band were Methodists of the old school and when they drove them from the schoolhouse they went to a private house to hold their meetings. The Church which the seceders formed was not long in becoming extinct.

In 1824 a Miss Barnes came here and began to hold meetings. The novelty of a female's preaching called out a large congregation. The Lord accompanied her labors with the Spirit's influence and about thirty were converted to God.

In 1829 Granville Circuit was transferred back to the New England Conference, and the preachers that year were Jefferson Haskell and John Nixon.

*Eager.

At this time, too, having become tired of the inconvenience of being crowded into a schoolhouse, the brethren succeeded in building a church, the first Methodist Meeting House built in Westfield.

In 1831 there was Sabbath preaching half the time. The following year the circuit was divided and this place or appointment became part of Westfield Circuit, and was supplied by David Lesley, having circuit preachers four Sabbaths in the year and local preachers the remainder of the time. In 1840 this place was blessed with a glorious revival of the work of God in connection with the labors of Brother King Hastings. From twenty to thirty professed to receive the forgiveness of their sins, almost the whole of whom remained steadfast in their Christian course. Many were heads of families who became pillars in the Church, among whom were Seldon Jones, L. Cowles and wife, O. Cowles and wife, T. Cowles and wife, H. Everton and wife, and many others in the beginning of 1841. Brother Hastings supplied half the time, Brother S. Drake and Leicester Loomis the other half — one in the morning and the other in the afternoon alternately. About fifty dollars was raised for Brother Hastings, the other brethren serving freely.

In 1842 West Parish applied for a preacher and was supplied by the Parish Elder with Brother Joseph Mixter*, a local preacher from Chicopee. There was a revival of religion, principally among the young. A large number professed to experience religion, a few only persevered and became members of the Church in full connection.

*Rev. Mr. Mixter's grandson, Mr. Frederick G. Mixter, now lives at 41 King Street.

In 1843 West Parish became a distinct charge and in 1843 and '44 was supplied by Thomas Gile. In the former year \$200 was paid for preaching; in the latter, \$194.

Randall Mitchell commenced his labor of preaching about the middle of April, 1856. Nothing very remarkable occurred during the first year. Some three members died and a few sinners obtained pardon.

"Labor of preaching" perhaps was a good phrase to apply to the Rev. Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Horace Nelson says that he was one of the so-called "hell-fire preachers." Once during a spring line storm he, a little boy living with his grandmother, went to church and heard the dominie preach on the story of the flood, bringing his hand, raised toward Heaven one minute, down the next second with splintering force upon the Bible. So vivid did he make the story of Noah's being so good that he with his family were saved in the ark while the other poor mortals suffered extinction, that on the road home the little boy tremblingly asked, "Grandma, will it *ever* stop raining?"

In 1857 the house occupied by Mr. Mitchell and called the parsonage was offered for sale for \$400. Brother Mitchell prevailed on Clarissa Noble to purchase said house and land and give them to the Church for parsonage purposes. And as the building and premises needed repairing, said Clarissa Noble gave fifty dollars more for that purpose, making \$500 in all given by her to said Church with the understanding that she should have the use of any slip in church, rent free, during her natural life. Said Mitchell took charge of the \$50 himself and laid it out to the best advantage, so that by doing much himself and getting all the help he could, he succeeded in getting the main part of the house clapboarded and three sides painted two



MR. THOMAS COWLES.

or three times over, also clapboarded and covered the stable and part of the shed, putting in windows and doors, etc., etc., and built some six to eight rods of board fence on the road and in front of his house and got the brethren under way digging a well, etc.

Some spiritual prosperity also attended the Church during the second year. Some ten or twelve seemed to meet with a change of heart, five of whom joined class on probation and a number more were seeking pardon when Conference came.

About here the history in the old book ended.

The following history was supplied by Thomas Cowles to continue what had been copied from the old book:

"1868 was indeed a year of miracle-working in West Parish. The Church had sustained itself with stated preaching for above thirty years but now found it a necessity to make some very general repairs on the church on the hill, which the good old Fathers built, or abandon the prospect of sustaining preaching among ourselves longer. While in this state and unwilling to let the gospel preaching stop in the neighborhood, the good Lord put it into the heart of Sister Clarissa Noble to make a second donation to the Church of \$400, \$100 to go with the \$500 she had previously given, to purchase the old tavern place for a parsonage, and the other \$300 to remodel the same, provided the society would repair the old church or build a new one on the site opposite the old tavern house.*

"A meeting was called of the trustees and the members voted T. Cowles a committee to get the owner's best terms

*There was a strong desire to do away with the tavern as after the days of the Loomises' management it had fallen into an evil way.

and report. T. Cowles reported as follows: 'Mrs. Julia Loomis will sell for \$700 the old tavern house and land provided there be a church built on the same in one year from date, the particulars given in the deed.'

"It was voted to purchase the old tavern place off Mrs. Julia Loomis and to appoint a committee of three — Oren Cowles, Dayton Loomis and Thomas Cowles — to solicit aid, contract and move the old church to land purchased for the same opposite the parsonage, repair church, also the parsonage comfortably and respectfully.—T. COWLES, *Secretary*.

"A subscription paper was drawn up by T. Cowles and at it he went. Knowing it was a work for the glory of God he trusted in Him. He first canvassed West Parish and almost to a man found them willing to give.

"Just at this juncture, Rev. S. O. Brown was most unexpectedly sent from Feeding Hills to supply the pulpit. It proved to be a Godsend indeed. His administration was of a threefold character. He gave us gospel and homeopathy, and was a first-class carpenter and joiner. He had just finished a church in Feeding Hills. We moved him into one corner of the old tavern. He offered his carpenter work, etc., for \$2 per day, which was quickly accepted, and he commenced pulling down chimneys and grappling with any work that needed to be done. His kind wife endured the dust and smoke with patience. As soon as the house was made comfortable Brother M. C. Chapin [who was the pastor preceding Brother Brown] moved in and was employed till the new church was finished. The principal laborers in woodwork were S. O. Brown, M. C. Chapin, Titus Pomeroy.

"As soon as I could be spared I called on the people in

MUNDAL E I N T H E O L D E N D A Y S

the village [Westfield] with my subscription paper and was welcomed without a single exception. My first man was Hiram Harrison* who put on my list \$100 and said, 'Don't fear to ask anyone for they will all be glad to help you,' and so I found it, as the list shows."

Besides Mr. Harrison, those residing in Westfield who gave were the following:

Cutler Laflin	\$25	H. J. Bush	\$10
George Laflin	25	David Moseley	10
Samuel Horton	25	Jerry Horton	10
Oren L. Cowles.....	25	C. I. Snow.....	10
Wm. O. Fletcher	20	Charles Fowler	10
Solomon Shepard	15	L. R. Norton	10
Hial Holcomb	15	Deacon Jessup	10
Reuben Loomis	15	Eustace Nelson	5
Henry Loomis	15	A. D. Loomis.....	5
James Noble, Jr.....	15	Hazwell Loomis	5
J. A. Loomis	15	Lyman Loomis	5
David Lamberton	10	Henry Holland	5
Loomis Holcomb	10	James Fowler	5
Merwin Loomis	10	Gamaliel Lee	5
Newton Barnes	10	Charles Spencer	5
J. R. Gillett.....	10	James Noble, 2nd.....	5
Alonzo Whitney	10	Wesley Cowles	5
Reuben Noble	10	Harry Lee	5
Seth Cowles	10	Leroy Gillett	5
Dr. J. H. Waterman....	10	L. B. Phelps.....	5
L. B. Walkley.....		\$5	

*Mr. Harrison had married Martha, daughter of Samuel Lee of Mundale. In 1866 he erected the first Athenaeum building in Westfield and donated it to the Athenaeum Corporation.

MUNDANE IN THE OLDEN DAYS

Those residing in West Parish or in nearby districts and attending Church there who gave were the following:

Dayton Loomis	\$200	H. A. Cowles	\$10
Leicester Loomis	200	Collins Pomeroy	10
Thomas Cowles	200	A. J. Whittaker	10
James Noble	200	M. B. Loomis	10
Harvey Everton	100	E. M. Herrick.....	5
Daniel Drake	100	Daniel Stiles	5
Oren Cowles	100	Noah Sackett	5
John Gillett	50	L. A. Lambson	5
David Drake	50	O. B. Loomis.....	5
Titus Pomeroy	50	F. D. Lambson	5
Archibald Little	25	Joseph Fowler	5
E. L. Spelman.....	20	F. C. Kellogg	3
M. C. Chapin.....	10	Martin Stiles	3

Two residing in Granville who gave were the following:

Mrs. Tersie Hamilton...	\$26
Mr. Silas Noble	5

"I will not forget to add the generous voluntary donation of ten bracket lamps for the church, value, I suppose, about \$40, by Grove H. Loomis of Boston.

"Ground was broken for the church May 26, 1868. Almost every hand was a helping hand in the work.

"The vestry by some was said not to be needed but it certainly is a great convenience.

"During the building of the church, meetings were held in the schoolhouse, and Sabbath School concerts, etc., one of which will not soon be forgotten by the little folks especially. Most of the children and adults had pieces or dialogues. Among the rest Thomas Cowles had a piece entitled 'Ring Tingle,' which made every young heart bound with joy as he presented one of Naylor & Co.'s cast steel bells in

picture and asked them to give one dollar each to purchase a bell for the new church with the promise that their names should be recorded and the sum each gave. It was to all a surprise, and when we counted up our list we found one hundred and forty dollars had been raised, which was a greater surprise. We then made a committee to solicit aid and in one week we had \$200, sufficient to purchase a good bell, which has been ever since giving us pleasant salutes, and I hope will never miss a week while there is a people in West Parish.

"The next thing in order is the great supper which the ladies got up in October for furnishing the church with carpets, etc. Three tables were set the length of the church at which were seated over 200, 100 of whom were from the center of the town, which testified that they got their money's worth, and they hoped we would repeat it every year. Two hundred dollars was the net gain from the supper.

"The material was purchased for cushions, etc., and the ladies did the sewing and Brother Brown the upholstering. The carpeting was put down in the aisles and afterwards Sister Clarissa Noble said, 'Carpet the pews,' and so she gave \$25 more and the pews were carpeted.

"Mariah H. Loomis* was a grand good worker all the time, but to make a finishing stroke she started out and raised enough money to buy a communion service, chairs and table, which were very much needed.

"The time of dedication was set for December 17th. On the 14th a committee found an indebtedness of \$651.03 with not a cent to pay it with. I felt sad and expected to

* Maria Happilonia, daughter of Leicester.

be blamed but was conscious I had done the best I could. I could not bear to have this weak Church in debt and be blamed for it. I resolved that it should not be dedicated till it was free, if I paid it all myself. On this I retired to rest and dreamed that I called on Brother James Noble to help me. I awoke deeply impressed that Brother Noble would help me. There were but two busy days more to the dedication.

"Brother J. Gillett, who has always been a kind friend to me and the society, called to give me words of consolation. He said, 'You must not pay all that debt. It is not right.' I said, 'I shall if I don't get help.' He said, 'You shall have help. I am going to work for you.' I thanked him. So he went among the people and got pledges from some. I felt that God was in the move.

"The time of dedication came. Brother Daniel Chapin* who was to preach the dedicatory sermon had arrived. I told him the circumstances and said it must be freed from debt before it was dedicated. He thought it to be impossible I told him to preach and then let me make a statement. He preached from Matt. xxii: 42, 'What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he?' It was the exaltation of Christ, a moving and melting sermon, after which I arose with much trembling and announced that there was a debt on the church of \$650, and to seat the vestry would add \$100 more, which must be paid before it was dedicated. I turned to Brother J. Noble, related in part my dream, asked him

*The Rev. Mr. Chapin was pastor of the Methodist Church in Westfield for three years from 1858, the longest pastorate up to that time. While there, his son, Charles Sumner Chapin, who many years afterward became the highly efficient and respected principal of the Westfield State Normal School, was born.

to give \$200 and I would add \$150; he nodded assent, and in twenty minutes the \$750 was pledged. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Brother J. H. Mansfield of Westfield and the Doxology sung by the congregation. Benediction when all looked joyous and happy. To myself it was truly the happiest hour of all my life. And from that time up to the present date Jesus has been drawing me closer and closer to Himself. To Him be all the praise."

Those from West Parish who gave at the dedication were:

James Noble	\$200	John Gillett	\$50
Thomas Cowles	150	Harvey Everton	50
Mrs. Leicester Loomis..	100	Titus Pomeroy	10
Dayton Loomis	100	Merritt Drake	10

Those from Westfield were:

H. J. Bush	\$20	Mrs. Eager Loomis.....	\$5
Rev. Daniel E. Chapin*.	10	Lyman Loomis	5
Merwin Loomis	10	Lemuel Grant	5
David Lamberton	10	William Phelps	5
Loomis Holcomb	10	D. W. Palmer (Southwick)	1

"The ladies are now turning their attention to the parsonage by adding articles of furniture and making a pleasant home for the preachers.

"One thing more noticeable than all others is that while we were doing with our might what our hands found to do, the Good Lord added spiritual blessings to our souls. Blessed be His Name."

S. O. Brown continued his labors until July 1st, 1869, when S. McLaughlin, a Scotchman about 32 years of age, who had preached with success in the old country, four years in London as city missionary, landed on the American shores in Boston Sabbath morning, June 6, 1869, with

*Formerly of Westfield.

wife and four children and came to West Parish by the appointment of the T. E. D. Sherman. He usually preached three times on Sunday and every day in the week, if there was an opening made. He has done much good service in Springfield Central Church, also in Chicopee Falls. He joined the Conference on trial in April, 1870. Was returned to us the second year, much to our satisfaction. The undersigned was returned to us the third year. In the last months of 1870 he took a subscription paper around in a day to get the whole debt off the church and raised two hundred and twenty dollars which cleared the Church of every cent of debt.

And the name signed below and the copier of all the history from which I have taken this account, written in beautiful backhand, is S. M. McLaughlin himself who ends by saying: "For these three years I have had a good time serving the Lord among the people here, and my prayer to God is that they may all be saved in the Great Day."

Of interest to Westfield people is the fact that in 1854 the Church was supplied by Rev. Ephraim Scott, grandfather of Mrs. Benjamin Chadwick of Hancock Street. Among the list of names of the children who contributed to the bell are those of Lottie, Nellie, and Etta Scott, the last becoming Mrs. Chadwick, and Freddie, who died at his sister Etta's home May 8, 1931. The Rev. Ephraim Scott lies buried in the Mechanic Street Cemetery, Westfield.

Of interest also to Westfield people is the coming to West Parish in April, 1872, of Rev. William Gordon, father of Dr. Will C. Gordon, pastor of the Second Congregational Church of Westfield, Massachusetts, from Sep-

tember, 1899, until January, 1908. In 1873 Rev. William Gordon was returned to West Parish with Southwick added to the charge. He spent alternate Sundays in each place and as far as practicable attended the weekly prayer meeting in Southwick on Tuesday evening. It was in the West Parish Church that Carrie Gordon, who became Mrs. Luther K. Leland, and her brother, William C. Gordon, were received as probationers March 27, 1873, by their father, but left before they were received in full connection into the Church. Five marriages were performed by Reverend Gordon during his two years of ministry here, so that if his good wife, Sarah, had the proceeds from such ceremonies, her pocketbook was not swelled over much thereby. Mr. Gordon's salary was estimated at \$700 and he received \$800, the largest for any of the ministers.

In 1878 Sister Lucy Cowles [daughter of Seth] offered \$40 and use of the money needed to enlarge the vestry. The work started in the autumn and was finished in time for the chicken pie supper December 4 and 5, by which it was dedicated. The expense was \$200, of which \$100 was borrowed of Sister Cowles. In June was the first annual strawberry supper. In the postscript added March 30, 1880, to the account of the previous two years Mr. Wm. H. Adams says: "The success of this Church spiritually and financially is largely due to the labors of Brother Thomas Cowles, the faithful class leader and treasurer. God bless him and spare him long to the Church."

The Rev. L. White received a cordial greeting when he commenced his pastorate of one year in April, 1881. He also preached in Granville, either each Sunday afternoon or each alternate Sunday, by invitation of a delegation from Granville and the approval of the elder. In his report con-

cerning the Church in West Parish, he said: "The year has not been one in which progress has been apparent. In the milder months when a preaching service was held each Sunday morning, followed by Sunday School and sustained by prayer meeting in the evening, the attendance was comparatively large and quite uniform, averaging about 50. But with the setting in of the long and cold winter and the return to two sermons, morning and afternoon, each alternate Sunday, came depression. Sunday School has been very small and prayer and class meetings have sometimes failed, because none came to the place of appointment.

"Doubtless the explanation is found, in part, in causes not discreditable. It is not the fault of the faithful fathers and mothers who linger here awaiting their summons to the Eternal Home that the children born and born again here, and here nurtured up to young Christian manhood and womanhood, have gone out from thence to seek for themselves homes and make their lives a blessing in stirring villages. And it is not the fault of these veterans that they feel the weight of years with many infirmities, and sometimes have to hide away for a season from Winter's chilly breath. May they live to bless the Church and the community here as long as life can be a blessing to them, and then enter joyfully the life that knows no end."

And also from Mr. White's report: "After a brief illness our esteemed brother, Leicester Loomis, closed a life of 73 years on the morning of January 8, 1881, ripe in age, yet young in look and heart. He was a man of excellent natural endowments and of marked intelligence. For a time he felt moved to devote his life to the Christian ministry, and for some years held a local preacher's license. In 1841 he assisted in the supply of the pulpit in this place.

He was a lifelong and vigorous advocate of the cause of temperance, was a lover of truth, had sharply-defined opinions. If he seemed at times over eager in their defense, his friends will remember to his credit his increasing liberality towards those who differed from him.

"More beautiful oft-times is the evening of day than its dawning. So in every life that ends well: first conflict, how often at fearful odds: then victory, though it may be with many scars: then the peace of God. I saw our departed brother only in the evening of his life. In his last months I knew him intimately. And I take great pleasure in saying that, though he talked with great freedom, I do not recall an unkindly word that fell from his lips. He was human like ourselves, but have we not reason to believe that, as he neared the end that meets the great beginning, more and more the good prevailed?"

From 1898-1900 the Rev. J. Alphonso Day held forth in West Parish. At the chicken pie supper of '98 Mr. Thomas Little [late of Westfield, and son of Mr. Archibald Little] spoke of placing a tablet in memory of Mr. Thomas Cowles, who had died December 18, 1897. It was accomplished and the dedicatory exercises took place in the church by a fitting and singular coincidence on December 18, 1898, the anniversary of Mr. Cowles' death, without having been previously planned with reference to it. Reminiscences were given concerning "Uncle Thomas'" life by Merwin Loomis, Wesley Cowles, James Noble, T. M. Cowles, and O. L. Cowles. An address was made by the Rev. L. H. Dorchester of the Methodist Church in Westfield, and Miss Lucy A. Little* sang, "Gently Lord,

*Daughter of Mr. Thomas Little; became Mrs. C. H. Abbe, then and now of 62 Franklin Street.

O Gently Lead Us," accompanied by Miss Alma Campbell*.

In 1905 a two-story addition was built at the rear of the church, the lower room to be used as a kitchen and the upper one for Sunday School and Epworth League purposes. Besides time, labor generously furnished by the men, and money given by young and old in Mundale, Mr. John Hallbourg came to Westfield where he raised over \$120 for the work.

Sunday, November 17, 1929, the Church commenced the celebration of the 135th anniversary of the religious work of the Methodists in Mundale and the 100th of the first Methodist Church edifice in Westfield. Nearly all protestants in the community attended and some came out from Westfield. On that day the Rev. Harry G. Butler, pastor jointly of the Church in Mundale and the Lay Memorial Church in Feeding Hills, preached a historical sermon. Miss Dorothy Butler, the pastor's daughter, sang. The Rev. Dr. Arthur Stroud, pastor of the Methodist Church in Westfield, closed the service with an ardent prayer and benediction.

The following Thursday evening an old-fashioned supper, consisting of baked beans, ham, cabbage salad, rye bread, pies, cakes, etc., was served in the vestry, followed by a meeting in the church auditorium with addresses full of deepest interest, given by the Rev. Dr. L. A. Nies, District Superintendent, Judge Robert Chapin Parker of Westfield, and Rev. William Dockham of Southwick, a former pastor. Rev. Mr. Butler read letters from Rev. Jerome Wood, Rev. Francis Hale, and Rev. Wilbur Hale,

*Granddaughter of Mr. Cowles; now deceased, but then living at 74 Franklin Street.

former pastors. A musical program was furnished by Miss Butler and Mrs. Miller of Feeding Hills.

The next Sunday Rev. Mr. Dockham preached a Thanksgiving sermon. Special music was furnished by Miss Butler, accompanied by Mrs. Ralph Nelson. Thus was brought to a close the week's celebration of the important anniversaries of this historical Church.

Mr. James Noble left to the Church a legacy of \$3000; his sister, Clarissa, \$500. Miss Clarissa Loomis* left \$125; Dayton Loomis, son of Joshua the third, \$500; Merwin Loomis, son of Thomas, \$100; Juliet, sister of Merwin, \$100. The first two go to the Conference and to the Methodist Missionary Society unless regular preaching is conducted in the church at least six months of the year by someone appointed by the Conference. The bell still rings during the warmer six months after Conference every Sunday afternoon at one-thirty and service is held at two-thirty. By their attendance a faithful few help to maintain the Church "which the good old Fathers built," being still "unwilling to let the gospel preaching stop in the neighborhood" or to "abandon the prospect of sustaining preaching" in the first Methodist Church edifice built in our beloved Westfield.

*Sister of Mr. Oliver Loomis, late of Bush Street.

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